

How to get the most out of a School Careers Fair

Research & Prepare Together

Researching different industries online to understand the types of careers available in each field helps so that your child can target the employers who they are most interested in. Exploring the websites of companies or organisations attending the careers fair to learn more about them and live job opportunities is a good idea. They can prepare for who is attending and can think about relevant questions to ask.

Set Goals

Setting a goal to speak with representatives from at least three different industries to explore a range of career options is a good idea. Try and help them narrow down industries they are interested in and set some goals for them to explore these. Plan a number of questions they can practise and ask each employer to encourage participation.

Encourage them to choose 1 or 2 friends to attend the fair with rather than a big group. Students are more forthcoming with questions when they attend alone or with a smaller group.

Dress Appropriately

If in uniform, make sure that your child makes an effort to wear full complete tidy uniform that day. If the event is non uniform (such as an after hours career fair or they are told to dress formally) choosing neat and tidy attire, such as business casual clothing or a collared shirt and trousers, to present a polished appearance. Avoiding overly casual attire like jeans and t-shirts, as it may not convey professionalism or respect for the event. Opting for comfortable shoes that are suitable for walking and standing for extended periods while navigating the careers fair.

How to get the most out of a School Careers Fair

Practice Introductions

Practicing introductions such as, "Hello, my name is [Name]. I'm a student at [School Name] and I'm interested in learning more about your organisation and the career opportunities available. Rehearsing confident body language, such as maintaining eye contact, offering a firm handshake, and speaking clearly and articulately.

Ask Questions

Asking questions like, "What are the typical responsibilities of someone in this role?" or "What qualifications do you look for when hiring for this position?" Inquiring about opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, or work experience to gain practical insight into a particular industry.

Encourage your child to ask insightful questions during their interactions. By showing genuine curiosity and interest, they can gain valuable insights into different industries and professions.

Actively Listen

Encourage your child to listen attentively to the responses provided by exhibitors and professionals and to ask follow-up questions based on their interests and areas of curiosity. Writing things down maybe a good idea so they can relay this information to you once they get home.